

# NBC NIGHTLY NEWS (9-20-2001)

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From Thursday September 20th, 2001 NBC NIGHTLY NEWS with Tom Brokaw

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america on alert tonight president bush addresses the nation making his case against osama bin laden for the american people the military gears up as troops around the nation get ready for battle also nbc's terrorism task force the latest information on where the investigation stands where it's going and a tribute in bronze to fallen firefighters an unexpected gift to new york city from far away [Music] from nbc news world headquarters in new york this is nbc nightly news with tom brokaw good evening president bush tonight speaks to the nation from a joint session of congress and he does so as the numbers in new york city took a sickening jump today there are now more than six thousand missing and presumed at the world trade center six thousand three hundred and thirty three and the stock market took another hammering today it is off thirteen percent since the attack all this as military troops planes and ships were on the move preparing to strike back but when and where we don't know nbc's david gregory is at the white house now with what the president hopes to accomplish tonight david tom top advisers say to the president say tonight he will not announce that the war is going to start but he will prepare the country for conflict he'd say he will describe the enemy why they hate america and what's at stake one official says the president will be direct with the country saying the long warhead will require quote the loss of life for liberty this morning another run through with top aides and speech writers tonight the president will pledge to direct quote every resource at our command to the disruption and defeat of the global terror network mr bush will reiterate that the fight is not against muslims but radical terrorists and to other

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but radical terrorists and to other nations he will say either you are with us or you are with the terrorists the president is also expected to discuss efforts to revive the economy still reeling from the attacks unlike a typical state of the union address the vice president will not sit behind the president in the capitol due to fear of another terrorist attack he'll be kept at a secure location also instead of the usual democratic response senate leader daschle will be joined by senator lott for remarks afterward in a show of unity today as the president again chaired a national security meeting at the white house the administration condemned the decision by afghanistan's taliban government to not turn over osama bin laden pressing again for his extradition secretary of state powell bluntly warning bin laden is the first target of what will become a long wide-ranging war when we have dealt with al qaeda the network osama bin laden the individual we will then broaden our campaign to go after other terrorist organizations and forms of terrorism around the world tonight the president meets with british prime minister tony blair who will be on hand in the capitol tonight to watch the speech sitting near mrs bush also on hand new york governor pataki and mayor giuliani as well as a group of new york city firefighters and police officers tom all right thanks very much nbc david gregory at the white house tonight at the pentagon they have now dropped the name operation infinite justice for this military attack muslims believe that only allah is capable of providing infinite justice and washington is determined not to offend the millions of law-abiding faithful muslims nbc's jimmy klashewski is at the pentagon now and he has the latest on the battle plans for us jim tom it's been another long day of meetings

here the process of picking targets and planning this war complicated and difficult from seymour johnson air force base south carolina to the army's bowman field kentucky the entire u.s military on edge tonight waiting for orders

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on edge tonight waiting for orders first to get the call a fleet of air force bombers high-flying u2 spy planes also in the mix sources report both army special forces and navy seals also on the way to help pick targets for any initial airstrikes and to wage a longer running commando style war against terrorists they'll be critical to this campaign going forward but getting it osama bin laden who often hides deep inside afghanistan's mountain caves is a challenge so the air force is hurriedly trying to develop a special bomb whose blast would penetrate deep into caves and incinerate everything and everyone inside back in america a patriotic surge military recruiters report the number of inquiries about enlisting has doubled since last week's terrorist attack it's still unclear however how many will serve now the u.s could launch cruise missiles at any time but officials here at the pentagon say it could take several more weeks before enough pieces are in place to launch any effective strikes against afghanistan tom thank you very much nbc jim kloszewski tonight among the thousands of troops and sailors on the move tonight the marines of camp lejeune north carolina she might imagine saying goodbye was even tougher than usual nbc's jim cummins is there tonight joins us now jim tom in the words of one marine here before september 11th we had a routine exercise scheduled now we are going over there to be the 911 today tearful goodbyes for the 2200 men and women of the 26th marine expeditionary unit and their families these are frontline troops known as an amphibious ready group they travel in assault ships the last time they saw action was in kosovo for sergeant joseph bolton of gillette wyoming the marines of lima company are ready to do whatever mission is handed down to us that might include seeking out terrorists is what they suggest if that's the mission sir then that will be prepared but the younger marines like

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be prepared but the younger marines like lance corporal sean harrison are more apprehensive about the mission just hope that uh everything goes well and come back safe and everything up on the bridge of the uss shreveport quartermasters shelby white and randall woods remember last year's deployment to the mediterranean this is going to be a lot different the last one was i wouldn't say more laid back but the stress level wasn't as high it's not training this time this is a real situation we're going into so it's going to take our full attention the potential danger is especially hard on families like major tony petersons he's a decorated member of this fighting group but that doesn't make it any easier for his wife and three children to say goodbye this time because of what's happened to our country and it's scary too as a wife well i'm kind of nervous because he might you know be going to war i'm afraid he won't return first lieutenant james jarvis is confident these marines will return we've got a lot of training specialized training that enables us to hit someone hard hit them fast and acquire whatever it is we need to acquire in order to get out of there they are traveling on three ships it will take them up to 12 days to reach the mediterranean this deployment is scheduled to last at least six months but that can easily be extended tom thank you very much nbc's jim cummins tonight now to the object of this great show of force the taliban of afghanistan and osama bin laden joining me once again from next door in pakistan from the capital of islamabad is nbc's ron allen ron what's the latest there tom after two days of meetings by hundreds of religious leaders in afghanistan finally today a decision to do about what to do about bin laden only to have it rejected by washington a rare gathering of religious leaders from across afghanistan an intense debate about how to respond to america's threat of massive retaliation for harboring osama bin laden afghanistan's

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harboring osama bin laden afghanistan's government leaders the taliban have been insisting they will defend bin laden to the end but today the religious clerics issue a statement saying america should be patient not attack and suggesting the taliban quote persuade osama bin laden to leave afghanistan whenever possible i

think there's very little likelihood at all there's nowhere for him to go except into the um arms of uh people who want to arrest him the few that might take in bin laden chechnya the breakaway russian republic northern yemen where bin laden's family is from and somalia all run by muslim warlords today the religious leader is also calling for an independent investigation by the u.n or an organization of islamic nations taliban leaders claiming bin laden would cooperate yes of course he is ready if there is evidence he is reading the american war machine so headed in this direction that's certainly something that has made them reassess the situation but a pakistani diplomat who knows the taliban well tells nbc news they're just buying time to quote head into the mountains before the u.s strikes that diplomat also saying pakistan's government has pretty much given up efforts to negotiate meaningfully with the taliban leadership they're on their own he says tom thank you very much nbc's ron allen tonight in islamabad in pakistan the united states is also using all of its diplomatic muscle as well as some powerful incentives to pressure the taliban nbc state department correspondent is andrea mitchell [Music] nbc news has learned the taliban rulers of afghanistan were offered a huge sum of cash in u.s dollars from saudi arabia for the arrest of bin laden and his network an offer communicated secretly through pakistan's president musharraf but today's decision by afghanistan's muslim clerics means so far no deal saudi arabia's foreign minister at the white house today hints at their secret role there have been many efforts to persuade them in the past by saudi

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persuade them in the past by saudi arabia that have not achieved the results as keepers of the faith islam's holiest sites the saudis are also telling the muslim world bin laden is an appropriate target and so are the taliban if they protect him we're still hopeful that taliban will will accept the wisdom of handing over criminals to face justice another incentive if the taliban give up bin laden and his network the u.n and the u.s will lift sanctions on the regime recognize the taliban as the legitimate government of afghanistan he is responsible for causing afghanistan and its regime to be looked down upon by the rest of the world and there's the example of pakistan next door for siding with the u.s against the taliban and bin laden pakistan could get as much as 30 billion dollars in debt relief emergency aid for refugees and the removal of sanctions imposed when they tested nuclear weapons enabling pakistan to once again get u.s military aid the saudis are also giving pakistan free oil and promising to flood the world market with oil if necessary to keep prices stable but they say they no longer have any influence with the taliban because bin laden has told the taliban not to trust saudi arabia tom nbc's andrea mitchell tonight expected to spread throughout the airline industry and some may find that the first good news to come out of this tragedy let's go straight now to our terrorism task force and the latest on the investigation a couple of new problems for the fbi tonight nbc's justice department correspondent pete williams joins me from washington pete tom good evening a scrap of evidence found at one of the crash sites may help prove one of the hijackers was aboard but it also illustrates a new problem for the fbi sorting through all the debris at the pentagon officials tell nbc news searchers amazingly fined a portion of a driver's license issued to one of the

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driver's license issued to one of the hijackers but is that name correct when the justice department put out the list of names last week officials said they were fairly confident of them but today they now say they can be sure only about some we have several others that are still in question so it's the investigation is ongoing and i am not certain as to several of the others example the list identifies one of the pentagon plane hijackers as saeed al-ghamdi but a saudi newspaper says this is the real saeed al-ghamdi a pilot for saudi airlines who twice studied flying in the u.s in florida where the hijackers are also thought to have trained officials say they're not sure if it's coincidence or if the hijackers deliberately stole the identities of middle eastern pilots even so the fbi says it can still track the actual hijackers from surveillance pictures and financial transactions like their ticket purchases in illinois the fbi arrests a liquor store employee nabil al-marab of detroit authorities say they're eager to ask him about a possible relationship with two of the hijackers and in washington some muslims complain of aggressive questioning by the fbi and say no one is required to answer we advise them not to talk and to speak to the fbi except with the presence of a legal council and officials tell nbc news that much of the hijackers money came from associates in germany through money orders tom thanks very much

nbc's pete williams tonight up next [Music] one of the ugliest legacies of this crisis is homegrown the surge of intolerance and hate crimes against muslims and people who are mistaken for them there are about six million muslims in america many of them were born here several of them are second and third generation tonight they're very anxious and joining me now from lower manhattan is nbc's national correspondent jim avila jim tom those two buildings truly were world trade centers more than 1700 workers of islamic heritage muslims now victims of

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islamic heritage muslims now victims of both hate and terror brooklyn's atlantic avenue where new york's arab americans look east to mecca and west to manhattan's gutted southern tip terrorism at the hands of suspected islamic extremists most muslims neither condone or understand doesn't say anywhere in islam to go blow up 5 000 innocent people signs posted today offering help from muslims afraid to leave their homes because of hate crimes the justice department reports 55 open investigations including allegations of three murders arson shootings and vandalism i'm hiding in my house in the heart of an arab neighborhood in brooklyn fariba nawa an afghan american student wrote an essay about her fears feeling under attack by terrorists and americans we unite as americans but that's the dark side of unity we sort of need a face and a group to hate how bad is it congressman john koosky republican from louisiana apologized today for this remark if i see someone that comes in that's got a diaper on his head and a fan belt around his diaper on his head that guy needs to be pulled over and checked and muslims are not just hate victims nearly a thousand are among the dead and missing i'm a mother and i am suffering very much timor khan 29 year old pakistani american bond trader still missing from his 92nd floor office at the world trade center this is a time of pain and sorrow and hurt for america not only the ones who have lost but for everyone else in boston rama sally and her husband michael confirmed dead passengers aboard hijacked american airlines flight 11. she was seven months pregnant i would like everyone to know that she was a muslim she is a muslim and we are victims too of this tragic incident

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here at the rescue and recovery center at the site itself we've seen both the best of america and now because of hate began to see some of the worst tom nbc jim ottawa tonight and i'll be right back with a poignant memorial that accidentally wound up exactly where it belongs and now they belong to the entire country the fdny the fire department of new york the men and women who were the first to respond with the police to the world trade center and those who will not give up the struggle to find their fallen colleagues there will be someday a permanent memorial to them and quite by accident one is already here a grieving firefighter praying for his fallen comrades he was meant to stand here on this tiny patch of land near a truck stop in kingdom city missouri a tribute to the lost lives of missouri's bravest it was on route from new york city when terror struck and so in a city where memorials are blooming in the unlikeliest of places none more so than this a flatbed truck on a nondescript block of 44th street and 8th avenue an unexpected gift from the missourians who have decided that more firefighters here lost their lives in one day than in the entire history of their state it makes me want to break down and cry and so while officials decide on a permanent home new yorkers from all walks of life look cry leave tokens of remembrance inscribed a fireman's pledge give me the strength to save some life here cast in bronze a permanent tribute to those whose strength gave out to those who fight on at ground zero from new york to missouri and beyond [Music]

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[Music] that's nightly news for this thursday i hope you can join me tonight president george w bush addresses the nation from a special joint session of congress that's tonight at 9 00 eastern on

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